False Freedom
Don’t be a hostage of the system.

In modern society, many individuals feel held hostage by an economic, political, and cultural system that limits their choices and shapes their behavior. This feeling is not mere paranoia, but reflects real dynamics of financial dependence, inflation control, high taxation, cultural influences, and mechanisms of social alienation. This text explores these themes based on verifiable information from academic sources, government reports, and historical studies, avoiding unfounded speculation. The goal is to illuminate how power structures can reduce individual autonomy.

Economic Dependence and the "Prostitution" of Daily Work

In communism disguised as capitalism, most people trade hours of their lives for wages, often under precarious conditions. Reports from the OECD and the World Bank show that, in many countries, the cost of living (housing, health, education) forces workers to accept poorly paid jobs with little bargaining power. In the US, for example, studies indicate that high marginal taxes and regulatory costs can discourage economic mobility, keeping people trapped in cycles of debt.

In Brazil, the high tax burden (around 33-35% of GDP in recent years, according to data from IBGE and the Federal Revenue Service) directly impacts the middle and lower classes. Consumption taxes (such as ICMS and IPI) are regressive, affecting the poor more. States with regressive tax systems, as observed in similar international analyses, cause the poorest to pay proportionally more of their income in taxes than the rich.

This dependency creates a form of voluntary "prostitution": selling time and energy to survive, often in exploitative industries. Workers on gig economy platforms (Uber, iFood, etc.) face instability without full rights, echoing sociological critiques of the alienation of labor.

High Taxes as a Control Mechanism

High taxes are justified as necessary for public services, but studies show trade-offs. In the US, reductions in the maximum marginal tax rate from 70% (1980) to 37% today have not necessarily generated consistent growth explosions, but tax increases can reduce investment and consumption. In countries with high tax burdens, such as some in Europe and Latin America, the state captures a large part of production, limiting individual savings and entrepreneurship. Research by the Tax Foundation indicates that high income taxes can discourage work and innovation in the long term. In Brazil, the complexity of the system (more than 90 taxes) generates high compliance costs, benefiting large corporations that can plan fiscally, while SMEs and ordinary citizens bear the burden.

This reinforces dependency: the citizen pays high for a system that, in theory, redistributes, but in practice maintains inequalities, as seen in analyses of migration of residents from high-tax to low-tax states in the US.

Inflation as a Form of Silent Control

Inflation is not just a monetary phenomenon; historically, governments have used (or tolerated) it as an indirect policy tool. During the "Great Inflation" in the US (1965-1982), failures in monetary policy and price controls led to stagflation, with deep recessions. Price controls, such as those of Nixon (1971-1974), failed and created shortages.

The economic justification: inflation erodes public debt (governments pay with devalued currency) and an invisible "tax" on savers, transferring wealth to debtors (many governments). Studies by the Federal Reserve show how high inflation discourages saving and distorts resource allocation. In Brazil, periods of hyperinflation in the 80s and 90s demonstrated how it destroys purchasing power, forcing dependence on indexed wages or government programs.

Economists like Milton Friedman argued that inflation is always a monetary phenomenon, but governments use it to finance spending without nominally raising taxes, keeping the population in a cycle of wage adjustment and forced consumption.

Musical and Cultural Manipulation

Music has been used for social control throughout history. Books such as "Music and Manipulation: On the Social Uses and Social Control of Music" explore how it promotes group solidarity or hostility, influencing attitudes and behaviors via the cultural industry.

Modern music industries, via streaming algorithms (Spotify, YouTube), amplify content that shapes narratives: glorification of violence, consumerism, or conformity. Sociological studies show how rhythms and lyrics can affect mood and motivation, serving commercial or political agendas. In the digital age, playlists and viral trends create bubbles that alienate or mobilize masses.

Religious Manipulation

Religion is a powerful tool for social cohesion, but also for control. Historical examples include the use of beliefs to justify political power, as in theocratic regimes or electoral campaigns that polarize through religious values. In the US, analyses show how parties align with religious groups on issues such as family and homeland to mobilize voters.

In contexts like Nigeria or India, laws based on religion (Sharia or caste system) influence social hierarchies and access to power. Politicians exploit faith to gain support, creating alienation between groups.

This fosters division: instead of questioning the system, individuals project frustrations onto religious or secular "others."

Influencers, Vandalism, and Antisocial Behavior

Social media amplifies influence. The selected cases show influencers involved in financial crimes or recruitment for gangs via TikTok. In Turkey, influencers were investigated for money laundering; in Mexico and Colombia, content recruits young people for organized crime.

Although not all directly promote vandalism, algorithms prioritize sensationalist content, normalizing disruptive behaviors. Studies show that excessive exposure to crime narratives can distort perceptions and increase imitation in vulnerable groups. Vandalism affects businesses, and social media accelerates trends.

Sexual Exploitation and the Role of Government Institutions

Documented cases involve failures or abuses by state agents. In the US, DOJ reports cover harassment in schools, the armed forces, and federal agencies (e.g., mail carriers or military recruiters). The Federal Tort Claims Act limits government liability in some assault cases.

Investigations reveal negligence in responses to abuses, such as in universities or federal programs. Although there is no systematic evidence of "government-orchestrated exploitation" as a policy, institutional failures and impunity in certain cases perpetuate vulnerabilities, especially among minorities or those dependent on public services.